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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. DELBENE).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
October 21, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SUZAN K. DELBENE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

### REMEMBERING GENERAL COLIN POWELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, this week, our country lost a great American, and I stand here today to remember a giant: General Colin Powell.

He was a statesman who loved his country fiercely. He was a trailblazer who served with love, integrity, and pride. He helped shape American foreign and military policy for years. He

believed public service was the most important job in the world.

His leadership, full of honesty and listening, inspired generations. He treated every person with dignity and respect. Until his dying day, he opposed the fear and the hatred dividing this country. He believed in America's promise, and he left that as his legacy. He stood on principle and believed in the good of life.

Today, we remember his steadfast leadership, his commitment to family, and his strong enduring presence.

Please join me in sending love and prayers to Alma and the Powell family in the difficult times ahead.

I close with some of the General's own wisdom: "The ties that bind us together are far stronger than the occasional stresses that separate us."

### HONORING NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. HERN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, today, I rise in honor of National Spina Bifida Awareness Month.

Spina bifida is a rare condition that develops in the womb. It stems from a hole in the spinal cord, a condition known as a neural tube defect. As the spinal column fails to close properly, nearly every major organ system is impacted.

Children born with spina bifida typically undergo dozens of surgeries at a young age. For those who survive to adulthood, they live with complex physical, mental, and other health challenges.

There are precious few resources available for the 166,000 individuals living with spina bifida in the United States, including my sister and my niece. I have another sister who was born with spina bifida as well and passed away shortly after birth.

I am very familiar with the challenges faced by those who suffer from spina bifida. It has been a part of my life since childhood.

The medical community has taken many steps forward since my sisters were diagnosed with spina bifida several decades ago. Whereas spina bifida used to be a childhood death sentence, many individuals with spina bifida are living well into adulthood, a tremendous milestone. But there is more we can do.

Funding for spina bifida is low. There is only one entity in the Federal Government studying spina bifida. It is the Spina Bifida Program at the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities at the CDC.

Americans living with spina bifida deserve the same respect and dignity in life as everyone else. Spina bifida research needs dedicated funding to ensure a better future for Americans with spina bifida.

### REMEMBERING PAT CAMPBELL

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Pat Campbell, a friend not only to me but to many Oklahomans who listened to him on the radio every morning.

Pat passed away yesterday morning after a long fight with brain cancer. Everyone who knew Pat knows he was a fighter.

Pat got his start on radio largely on accident, because he would call in and debate a liberal radio host. The station was so impressed with his calls that they gave him his own show.

After that, he became a regular guest of Tucker Carlson's on MSNBC and would go on to be a guest commentator on shows like "The O'Reilly Factor" and "Fox and Friends."

Pat had an extraordinary impact on radio, not only in Tulsa but around the Nation. He was a passionate voice for conservative values and a truly great friend.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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I will greatly miss Pat, and I offer my heartfelt condolences to his family and all those who loved him.

#### RECOGNIZING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH AND LATINA EQUAL PAY DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. BOURDEAUX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Madam Speaker, I rise today, October 21, to recognize Latina Equal Pay Day, the day when the pay for Latina women catches up to that of White men from the previous year. Latinas typically earn only 57 cents for every dollar earned by White men.

This disparity harms women, their families, and the communities that depend on their wages for survival. This inequity is why I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 7, the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would close loopholes in the Equal Pay Act in an effort to break the patterns of pay discrimination and strengthen workforce protections for women, especially women of color.

I would also like to take this time on Latina Equal Pay Day to acknowledge the recent conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month and to recognize and celebrate the many contributions, diverse cultures, and extensive histories of the American Hispanic community and the over 60 million Americans who identify as Hispanic or Latino.

I am proud to represent one of the most diverse districts in the United States and the more than 170,000 Hispanic Americans who call Georgia's Seventh District home.

One of my most significant legislative accomplishments was borne out of conversations with Tony Rodriguez, CEO and president of the Aurora Theater in Lawrenceville. My conversations with him encouraged me to introduce the Paycheck Protection Program Extension Act, which extended the deadline to apply for forgivable PPP loans from March 31 to May 31 and gave small businesses more time to access this critical assistance.

I would also like to recognize Antonio Molina, chair of the board of Georgia's Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, for his hard work ensuring Hispanic small business owners have the resources they need to be successful.

I also recognize Santiago Marquez, the executive director of the Latin American Association, which provides a critical safety net service for so many in the Seventh District.

I would also like to thank two Hispanic members of the Cabinet: Secretary of Health and Human Services Xavier Becerra and SBA Administrator Isabel Guzman, who visited Georgia's Seventh District this year. It was an honor to host each of them and introduce them to the wonderful place we call home.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge my chief of staff, Estefania "Stefy"

Rodriguez, for her work leading my staff to serve the great people of the Seventh District.

As I host and attend events across my district, I am struck by the vibrancy of the Hispanic communities.

Recently, I visited with the Latino Lions Club of Norcross, the Latin American Association, the Hispanic Health Coalition of Georgia, and Latino Community Services to discuss how we can work together to address the issues that matter most to our community.

We all benefit from the contributions Hispanic Americans have made and will continue to make. The inclusion of their voices and values in our community make my district and the United States so much stronger.

They are the scientists, doctors, nurses, and essential workers who have helped us get through the COVID-19 pandemic; the teachers who educate the next generation of Americans; the artists who grace our television screens and our stages; the small business owners who drive our economy; and the many Hispanic elected officials, some who walk these very halls, who work every day to make a positive difference for our community.

I am a proud cosponsor of critical legislation, such as H.R. 6, the American Dream and Promise Act, and H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, which extends the American Dream to millions of people who already call this great Nation home.

Today, on Latina Equal Pay Day, and following the conclusion of Hispanic Heritage Month, I reaffirm my commitment to always work to support and strengthen our vibrant Hispanic communities.

#### HORRIFIC EVENT ON SEPTA TRAIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am here today to talk about something that apparently the person whose representative serves in this Congress refuses to talk about, and that is the horrific events that occurred last Wednesday on a SEPTA train.

"SEPTA" stands for Southeast Public Transit Authority. It is the transit system that runs around Philadelphia.

Now, I don't know whether folks in the House know it, but for nearly 40 minutes, a woman on the train was harassed and groped before an illegal alien forcibly ripped off her clothes and raped her right there on the train, while up to 10 riders watched without intervening. They didn't even bother to call the police.

Imagine this. It actually gets worse. This hellacious experience continued as the train passed 20 train stations. Instead of taking action, other passengers watched and some actually are reported to have filmed the attack.

It actually gets worse. The perpetrator of this horrific crime is here in

our country illegally. Despite previous convictions of sexual abuse and drug crimes, he is another one that was released from immigration detention rather than being deported.

Now, the severe emotional and physical trauma experienced by the victim could and should have been prevented by our elected officials, who often advocate for open borders and defunding the police. They have failed her, they have failed us, and they have created an environment where she was victimized in front of others by a man who should have been deported years ago.

While the man should have been deported years ago, the man should not have been in our country in the first place. We have laws for these things, and we should enforce those laws so that this lady could live safely in her American city.

This horrific crime raises questions and concerns about where we are as a Nation and how we got here.

When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle decide they want to speak on this floor and attack law enforcement and denigrate our immigration officials, like the ones that were down at the border on horseback trying to enforce the laws that are passed in this very Chamber, and they actively seek to release dangerous criminals into society, I wish they would realize that there are real human victims of their reckless, irresponsible, and absolutely dangerous policies and rhetoric.

I hope the majority keeps this in mind as they continue to work on their \$3.5 trillion spending bill that promises amnesty to dangerous criminals and puts Americans citizens in danger. That is what it does; Amnesty, letting criminals stay here without consequence, without accountability.

But there is accountability for this poor lady, I guarantee you that.

Open borders, abolish ICE, no bail, and defund the police are not merely harmless catchphrases that Big-Government, socialist politicians can spew without consequence. That rhetoric results in horrific crimes against citizens that are someone's constituent, someone who took an oath to the Constitution to defend this country and the citizens of this country. They are someone's family member. This was someone's daughter, someone's little girl.

I want to commend the off-duty SEPTA employee for having the courage to step up and do the right thing, calling the police and ending the most horrific event of this young woman's life.

I also want to thank the SEPTA police officer—law enforcement. Yes, I want to thank law enforcement who intervened and brought this nightmare to an end.

But I do want to take a moment and ask my colleagues: How much more must we endure?

There are so many others, so many other victims, from this side of the country to the other side: Kate Stienle